

Application Ranking Summary Gopher Tortoise

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Gopher Tortoise		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will 75% or more of the practices be located within the "Focal Area" or within the Threatened range with gopher tortoise present? The Focal Area is the area below the yellow line on the Gopher Tortoise range map.	15 Point(s)
Species Presence:	
2. 2a. Is there credible verification of species occurrence (for example USFWS, NRCS, or State DCNR documentation)? This should not be taken to imply that a site visit is required. Complete attachment C found in the Working Lands for Wildlife handbook to answer this question. If 2a is answered yes then 2b should be no.	200 Point(s)
3. 2b. Based upon available species occurrence data and information, is the target species assumed to occur within the offered tract? If determined by landowner self-certification, need landowner initials here. Complete attachment C found in the Working Lands For Wildlife handbook to answer this question. If 2b is answered yes then 2a should be no.	100 Point(s)
Applicant will conduct a growing season burn on a stand with a heavy fuel?	50 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does offer include prescribed burning and associated firebreaks if needed in thinned longleaf or loblolly pine timber (additional sunlight on forest floor) or in any existing longleaf pine as a practice on majority of offered acres? = 60 Points	50 Point(s)
2. Does greater than (>) 50% of the offered acres have suitable soils for gopher tortoise = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
3. Is the offered area adjacent to protected lands (such as USFS, ALDCNR owned or long term leased, permanent easement, etc) that are managed for habitat that is suitable for gopher tortoise = 40 Points	40 Point(s)
Will offered tree establishment site be on hay land, cropland, or pastureland?	-50 points(s)
Answer question #5 or #6 depending on where the application is located.	
5. Subpart A Tier 1 area (offer is within cream color on map) = 80 Points	80 Point(s)
6. Subpart B Tier 2 area (offer is within blue color on map) = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
7. Will the applicant commit to allow a gopher tortoise survey to be conducted on the offered acreage?	80 Points

Crop;

Forest;

Other;

Pasture;

Resource Concerns	Practices
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Forest Trails and Landings
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Herbaceous Weed Control
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Restoration and Management of Rare and D
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Forest Trails and Landings
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Herbaceous Weed Control
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Restoration and Management of Rare and D
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Firebreak
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Forest Trails and Landings
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Herbaceous Weed Control

Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Brush Management
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Forest Stand Improvement
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Forest Trails and Landings
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Herbaceous Weed Control
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Prescribed Burning
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Restoration and Management of Rare and D
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Brush Management
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Forest Trails and Landings
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Herbaceous Weed Control
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Prescribed Burning
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Restoration and Management of Rare and D
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Brush Management
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Herbaceous Weed Control
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Prescribed Burning

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Restoration and Management of Rare and D
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: